(b) whether Government are also aware that more than 50,000 Indian students are reportedly involved in such rackets, and have spent huge money without getting admission or even knowing quality/value of degree of such universities; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to issue any guidelines for benefits of the Indian students, by providing all details about foreign Universities, Country-wise and course-wise indicating their recognition by their parent country as well as by India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise. However, a Committee of experts has been constituted to examine all the relevant issues pertaining to the entry of foreign universities in India.

Conversion of Rajasthan University into a Central University

†679. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has submitted a proposal to the Central Government to upgrade Rajasthan University, Jaipur as a Central University;

(b) when this proposal was sent to the Central Government; and

(c) the decision taken by Government to upgrade the Rajasthan University, Jaipur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (b) Yes, Sir. A request was received from the Chief Minister of Rajasthan in January, 2004.

(c) In consonance with the provisions of the National Policy of Education, 1986, as modified in 1992 the Central Government has given priority to strengthening the existing Central Universities and therefore, the request could not be acceded to.

Improvement in education

680. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the imposition of 2 per cent Education Cess (surcharge)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

in the last budget, the education-for-all programme is picking up momentum;

(b) whether at the national level only 56 per cent of the total teachers requirement has been met and in the States like Jharkhand and Orissa local communities or village bodies have been allowed to hire teachers; and

(c) whether with Bihar not recruiting even a single teacher, appointments in Chhattisgarh tied up in litigation and the States like West Bengal, Karnataka, Uttaranchal have achieved a bare 20 per cent of the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) The Education Cess is meant to fulfil the commitment of the Government to provide and finance universalised quality basic education. At present there is no proposal to utilise the Education Cess for eradicating adult illiteracy in the country.

(b) and (c) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan provides for one teacher for every 40 children in a primary and upper primary school, at least two teachers in a newly opened primary school and one teacher for every class in a newly opened upper primary school. Based on requirement projected by States in their District Elementary Education Plans, the additional posts of Elementary Education Plans, the additional posts of Elementary Teachers are approved for Central assistance to meet requirement of Elementary Education of satisfactory quality. The policy and procedures for recruitment of teachers as well as filling up of sanctioned posts is the responsibility of the State Government concerned. States/UTs appoint teachers for Elementary Education according to their requirements and as per their recruitment rules. While some States are only appointing regular teachers, many States have started appointing contract teachers.

Progress in filling up of Elementary Teachers posts sanctioned under SSA varies from State to State. While in some States like Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir, all posts of Elementary Teachers sanctioned under SSA have been filled up, in States like Bihar no progress has been made. In Uttaranchal, the progress in filling up of post of Elementary Teacher is approximately 67%, in Chhattisgarh it is 60% in Karnataka and West Bengal it is 25% and 20% respectively.